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Page 32 Medical Waste Guidelines

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Page 34 Medical Waste Guidelines

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INDEX

Disease transmission, 1, 2, 4, 10, 20, Carcass, 20 A CDC, See Centers for Disease Access, 2, 10, 12, 15, 21 Disinfect, 14, 16, 19 Control Accident, 16, 17, 22 See also Chemical disinfection Centers for Disease Control, 2, 20 Acquired Immune Deficiency Disinfectant, 13, 14, 24, 25 Characteristic, 1, 4 Syndrome, 3 Disinfection, 8, 11, 16, 18, 19, 20, Characterization, 1, 8, 22 Aerosol, 2, 13, 28 24-27 Chemical Aesthetic, 7 Disposable, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 19, 20 decontamination, 20, 27 Agency for Toxic Substances and Drug, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12 disinfection, 19, 20, 24, 25 Disease Registry, 1, 7, 20 Drug abuse, 3, 7 hazardous waste, 3, 20 Agriculture, 2 indicator, 24 AIDS, See Acquired Immune E listed, 4 Deficiency Syndrome treatment, 18 Education, 7, 8 Air, 1, 2, 11, 18-23, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29 waste, 3, 20 Effluent, 18, 25 Air pollution, 22 Emergency, 5, 15, 21 Chemically contaminated waste, 3 Alternative treatment, 10, 27 Chemicals, 1, 3, 5, 8, 20, 21, 25, 27, Emission, 22 American Dental Association, 13, 14, Encapsulation, 19, 20 Chemotherapeutic waste, 16 Energy, 1, 18, 21 American Diabetes Association, 7 Chemotherapy, 3 Environmental impact, 7 American Hospital Association, 6 Chlorine, 22, 24, 25 Environmental Protection Agency, 1, American Society for Testing and Chlorine compound, 25 6, 8, 25 Materials, 10, 13 Equipment, 2, 12-16, 21-26 Chute, 11 American Society of Mechanical Cleanup, 4, 13-15, 21 failure, 13, 14, 16 Engineers, 22 Cleanup kit, 13-15 Etiologic agent, 1 Animal care, 5 Clinics, 5, 6 Excreta, 2, 3 Animal waste, 2, 4, 20 Exposure, 1, 2, 8, 10-15, 19, 21, 24, Cobalt, 26 Animals, 1, 2, 3, 12 26, 27 Antineoplastic, 3, 11, 12, 20 Collection station, 10, 22 See also Occupational exposure Combustion, 21-23, 29 Ash, 11, 15, 18, 21, 22-24 Compaction, 11, 19, 26, 27 Ash residue, 22 F Compliance, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22 ASTM, See American Society for Composition of waste, 18, 22 Facility, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11-13, 15-17, 19-22, Testing and Materials Congress, 3, 7, 8, 19, 21, 24 Autoclave, 18-20, 21, 22, 24 27 See also Steam sterilization Contact time, 24, 25, 26 design, 21 Contain, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 25 Feces, 2 Container, 3, 11-13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23 Federal, 3, 5, 7, 14, 15, 24, 25 Containment, 2, 7, 10, 11, 13-16, 19, Feed capacity, 22 Bacillus stearothermophilus, 24 Feed rate, 22 Backhauling, 15 Fetus, 13 Contamination, 20, 24, 28 Bactericidal, 25 Contingency planning, 9, 13, 15, 16 Fluid, 23 Bag, 10, 11, 14, 21 Fly ash, 22 Corpse, 2 Batch-type, 25, 26 Fungicidal, 25 Cost, 8, 19 Batteries, 8 Cremation, 2 Bedding, 2, 20 G Culture, 2 Biochemical oxygen demand, 28 Cytostatic, 3 General Accounting Office, 18 Biodegradable, 8 Cytotoxics, 1, 3 Generation, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 21, Biohazard, 2, 12, 13, 15 Biohazard symbol, 12, 13, 15 D Generator, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, Biologicals, 1, 2 21, 27 Biosafety level, 2, 19 Dart test, 10 Glass, 2, 11, 26 Bleach, 25 Decay, 9 Blood, 2, 4-6, 10, 13, 14, 20, 27 Glutaraldehyde, 25 Decontamination, 11, 17, 18-20, 25-27 Grinding, 19, 20, 24, 26, 28 BOD, See Biochemical oxygen Dental, 5, 13, 14, 20 demand Department of Agriculture, 2 Н Bottom ash, 22 Department of Health and Human Bulk quantities, 1, 3 Hammermill, 18, 24 Services, 1, 2, 4, 20, 27

Department of Labor, 14

Disease, 1-5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 18-20, 26,

Diabetic, 7

Disclosure, 12

 \mathbf{C}

Cadmium, 8

Capped, 11

Capacity, 3, 12, 13, 21, 22

Hazard, 2, 4, 7, 11, 18, 19

27 Hauler, 15

Handling, 1-3, 7-11, 13-16, 19-22, 26,

Hazardous waste, 1, 3, 8, 18, 20, 22, 27

HBV, See Hepatitus B virus Health care, 5, 7-11, 14 Health care delivery, 7 Health care facility, 8 Heat, 8, 10, 19, 21-23, 25-29 Heat exchanger, 25 Heat transfer, 25 Heat treatment, 19 HEPA, See High efficiency particulate air Hepatitus B virus, 13, 14 High efficiency particulate air, 19, 20, 26 HIV, See Human immunodefiency virus Home health care, 5, 7, 9 Hospital, 6, 7, 11, 13, 18, 23, 24, 28 Host, 1, 4, 10 Housekeeping personnel, 9 Human blood, 2, 4, 19 Human immunodeficiency virus, 13, Hydraulic ram, 26 Hydrogen chloride, 19

I

Identification, 9, 12, 13, 16, 21 Impermeable, 12, 13 Incineration, 18, 19-22, 26 Incinerator, 3, 8, 11, 15, 19-23 Incinerator ash, 11, 15, 22 Infection, 1-3, 9, 11, 8, 13, 14, 18, 21, Infection control, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 21, Infectious agent, 1 Infectious capability, 1 Infectious potential, 1, 10 Infectious waste, 1-3, 6, 7, 10, 20, 22, 27 Injury, 3, 11, 13, 19, 27 Interment, 2 Intravenous drugs, 7 Iodophor, 25 Irradiation, 26, 27

T.

Labeling, 9-12, 14, 17
Laboratories, 2, 5, 6, 8, 18, 19, 24, 28
Laboratory safety, 2
Landfill, 3, 18, 19, 20, 25, 27, 28
Leachate, 3, 27
Leakage, 12, 23, 26
Leakproof, 11
Liability, 8, 11, 12
License, 12, 16
Licensing, 13, 16
Liquid waste, 2, 11, 19, 25
Listed chemical, 4
Livestock, 7
Loading, 15, 22-24, 26, 28
Local ordinance, 7

Log, 24 Loss of containment, 13, 16 Low-level radioactive waste, 3, 20

M

Macrowave, 27 Mail, 15 Maintenance, 5, 14, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24 Malfunction, 12, 22, 23, 26 Manifest, 16 Manufacturer, 15, 27 Materials management, 8 Medical waste, 1-10, 7-17, 18, 19, 20-22, 23, 24, 26-28 Medical Waste Tracking Act, 27 Microbiological, 2, 19, 23 Microwave, 27 Minimization, 8, 9, 13, 24 Monitor, 23, 24, 26 Monitoring, 9, 12, 13, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26 Multiple characteristics, wastes with, 4 Municipal waste, 27 Mycobacteria, 13

Ν

National Institute on Drug Abuse, 7 Needles, 2, 3, 11, 12, 19, 27 See also Sharps Nonputrescent, 12 Nuclear medicine, 3 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1, 3, 20 Nursing, 5, 8, 11

O

Occupational exposure, 13, 14

Occupational safety, 2, 14
Occupational Safety and Health
Administration, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Off-site, 9-12, 16, 18, 21
On-site, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 21, 28
Operation, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 21-26, 27
Operator, 15, 16, 22, 24, 27
Organ, 27
OSHA, See Occupational Safety and Health Administration

P

Packaging, 8-12, 17, 19
Pathogen, 1, 26
Pathological, 2, 20, 27
Patient care, 2, 5, 10
Performance testing, 22
Permit, 3, 12
Pharmaceutical, 5, 28
Planning, 9, 13, 15, 16
Plasma, 2
Plastic, 10, 11, 13, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26
Plastic bag, 10

Policy, 3, 7, 11
Polyvinyl chloride, 8, 19
Portal of entry, 2, 4, 19
Post mortem, 2
Potential for infection, 2
Pourable, 11
Prevention, 8, 13, 24
Procedure, 4, 13, 15, 19, 23
Protection, 1-3, 6, 8, 10-12, 16, 25
Public health, 1, 3, 7, 9, 15, 19, 27
Puncture, 11, 19, 20, 27
Puncture resistant, 11, 19
Purchasing, 8
PVC, See Polyvinyl chloride

ŀ

Radiation, 22, 26 Radio-immunology, 3 Radioactive waste, 3, 20, 27 RCRA, See Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Recognizable, 19 Record, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24 Record keeping, 9, 12, 13, 16, 21, 22, 24 Recyclable, 8, 9, 19, 25, 27 Recycling, 8, 10 Reduction, 8, 9, 18, 21 Refuse workers, 7 Regulation, 3, 5, 9, 20 Regulatory, 1, 3, 20 Report, 7, 14, 23 Reporting, 12, 21 Reprocessing, 8 Residue, 3, 11, 18, 20-22 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 1, 3, 18, 20 Retort, 22 Reusable, 8, 9, 11 Reuse, 3, 8 Risk, 1, 2-4, 13, 16, 18, 19, 20, 24 Rural, 12

S

Safety, 2, 3, 9-11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 22, 27 Sanitary disposal, 12 landfill, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28 sewer, 18, 20, 28 Scalpel, 2, 3 Scrubber, 18 Security, 12, 15, 21 Segregate, 1, 10 Segregation, 8-11, 13 Separate, 10, 15 Separation, 7, 8, 18 Self care, 5 Serum, 2 Sewer, 18, 19, 20, 25, 28 Sharps, 2-4, 7, 10, 11, 15, 19, 20, 27 Shipment, 11, 16

Page 38 Medical Waste Guidelines

Shredding, 26, 27 Siting, 18 Small generator, 15 Small volumes of chemical hazardous waste, 3, 20 Solid waste, 1, 3, 7, 8, 9-12, 17, 19, 22, 25, 27 Source reduction, 8, 9 Sources of medical waste, 5 Spill, 4, 9, 11, 13-16, 21 response, 9 Spore assay, 12, 13 Sporicidal, 25 Stack design, 21 State, 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28 Steam, 18, 19, 20, 22-26, 27 Steam sterilizer, 22, 23 Steam sterilization, 19, 20, 22-24 Sterile, 3 Sterilization, 8, 18-20, 21, 22-24, 27, 28 Sterilize, 8 Stocks, 2, 4, 18, 19

Storage, 8-12, 14, 15, 21, 26, 27 Subtitle C, 1, 3, 20 Surgery, 2, 5 Surplus, 3

T

Tag, 11, 12
Teeth, 2, 20
Temperature, 12, 21-24, 25-27
Thermal inactivation, 19, 20, 25, 26, 28
Thermocouple, 25
Toxicity, 1, 8, 9
Training, 3, 7-9, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 24
Transmission of disease, 19
Transportation, 9, 10, 11, 15-17, 20
Transporter, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21
Treatment, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9-12, 13, 14-16, 18-22, 24-28
Trucking, 10, 15, 16

U

Ultraviolet, 26 Universal use, 3 Untreated, 9, 11, 15, 26-28 Unused sharps, 3, 20 UV, 23, 26

V

Vector, 1 Vehicle, 1, 15, 16 Veterinary, 1 Volume reduction, 18, 21

W

Waste, 1-10, 7-28 composition, 22 generation, 21 prevention, 8 treatment, 10, 21, 27 type, 2, 16, 21 Wastewater, 18, 28 Weight reduction, 21 Worker safety, 15, 22

Z

Zoonotic, 2, 20

The Council of State Governments

The Council of State Governments is a national, non-partisan service organization of the 50 states — created, supported, funded and directed by them. The states established the Council in 1933 to improve the state governments and strengthen the state role in the federal system. The Council's members are all elected, appointed and career officials of state governments. The Council has offices in Lexington (headquarters), New York, Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington.

The Council is the nation's only non-profit agency dedicated to serving all branches of state government in all the states and territories. The Council has nurtured new state roles for over 50 years by bringing state leaders together to share ideas, innovations, and solutions. The Council publishes many volumes concerned with state government, including Suggested State Legislation, Innovations Reports, The Book of the States, State Government News, and The Journal of State Government. The Council regularly conducts meetings of such state legislative groups as the Western Legislative Conference, the Eastern Regional Conference, the Southern Legislative Conference and the Midwestern Legislative Conference. Meetings of regional groups of Governors and Attorneys General are also regularly conducted, as well as national and regional meetings of other elected and appointed state officials from all parts of state government. The Council has 47 different organizations of state officials associated with it, including the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors, the National Association of State Treasurers, and the National Association of State Personnel Executives.

Centers for Health and Environment

The Council established the Centers for Health and Environment, consisting of research programs for health, for environment, and for occupational licensure, to assist state leaders in developing and improving public policies in these subject areas. Recently, the Council has also charged the Centers with identifying new issues in science and technology that will affect the states. A national task force of state legislators, and elected and appointed executive branch officials from all regions of the nation guides the efforts of each of the Centers.

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